

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 131497
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P 080033Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 131497

FOR AMBASSADOR ONLY FROM ARMITAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UR, OGEN

SUBJECT: PRESEL ASSIGNMENT

1. WE PRESUME THAT DICK VIETS HAS BRIEFED YOU ON HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH TOM SIMONS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF ASSIGNING JOE PRESEL TO BUCHAREST AS YOUR POLITICAL COUNSELOR. BECAUSE SOVIET PRESSURE ON JOE HAS STEPPED UP OF LATE AND BECAUSE THE IMPENDING SHCHARANSKIY TRIAL PROMISES MORE OF THE SAME, WE WANT TO GET JOE OUT OF MOSCOW BEFORE THE SOVIETS ACT AGAINST HIM. HE HAS DONE A FIRST CLASS JOB IN MOSCOW, AND OUR INTEREST IS IN PRESERVING THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING HIM BACK THERE AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE.

2. FOR OBVIOUS REASONS WE DON'T WANT TO BRING HIM BACK TO WASHINGTON WITHOUT AN ONWARD ASSIGNMENT IN VIEW. WE CAN PLACE HIM ELSEWHERE, BUT THINK HIS INTERESTS AND
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YOURS WOULD BE SERVED BY A BUCHAREST ASSIGNMENT. BUT YOUR VIEWS ON PRESSEL'S SUITABILITY, THE ROMANIAN REACTION, AND THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE JOB WILL COME VACANT NEXT SUMMER WILL BE DETERMINING FACTOR. WE UNDERSTAND THAT INCUMBENT DOES NOT PRESENTLY WISH TO CURTAIL TOUR TO TWO YEARS.

3. PLEASE GIVE US YOUR THOUGHTS SO THAT WE CAN DECIDE
HOW TO PROCEED BEFORE AMBASSADOR TOON RETURNS TO
MOSCOW JUNE 9. VANCE

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